

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11 and 13-19 are pending. By this Amendment, the specification is amended to correct informalities, claims 4, 8 and 12 are canceled, claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-11 are amended and claims 13-19 are added.

I. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, the Office Action states that the term "arc resistant" is indefinite. The specification at page 4, lines 9-14, provides "Generally, an occurrence of an arc discharge can be suppressed by making the final contact portion of one terminal of the arc resistant material ... " See also the specification at page 8, lines 5-6, page 23, lines 5-6, Tables 1 and 2 shown in pages 23 and 24 and page 25, lines 5-6. Thus, it is apparent that the term arc resistant means suppression or prevention of an arc.

Finally, the claims are amended to recite an "arc suppressive material". Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 5, 7, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over USP 4,925,394 to Hayashi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hayashi discloses a ceramic coated terminal for electrical connection. According to Hayashi, a ceramic layer 5 is coated on an intermediate layer 4 which in turn covers the base material 3. Hayashi addresses problems of the prior art caused by employing tin plated terminals having poor reliability or gold which is expensive and has inferior mechanical properties. Hayashi discloses that the electrically conductive ceramic coating layers are made of an electrically conductive ceramic. For example, at least one electrically conductive

ceramic selected from the group consisting of titanium carbide, titanium nitride, tungsten carbide, etc. Hayashi does not address the suppression or prevention of an arc.

According to the invention of independent claims 1, 5 and 9, most of the content of the arc suppressant material is titanium. Specifically, the percent of titanium is 95 percent or more, 99 percent or more or 99.5 percent or more. Using a material that is close to pure titanium enables suppression or prevention of arc.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over USP 4,747,783 to Bellamy et al., in view of Hayashi. With respect to claim 4, this rejection is moot. With respect to claims 1-3 this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Bellamy discloses a pin that is coated with an insulating layer 15 and a resistive layer 13. According to Bellamy thick film palladium gold is used for the two ohm coating. See e.g., col. 3, lines 41-43. Bellamy does not disclose that titanium has good arc suppressive qualities.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's assertion that Hayashi provides the deficiencies of Bellamy. See above discussion with respect to Hayashi.

The Office Action rejects claims 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hayashi. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 6 and 10 depend from claims 5 and 9 respectively. Thus, as discussed above, claims 6 and 10 are patentable.

The Office Action rejects claims 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hayashi in view of Bellamy. This rejection is moot.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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